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GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

Fruit-growing in Simcoe.

At this writing, I cannot judge as to the injury done fruit trees by the severe winter. Some years ago, a winter like this followed a very dry summer, thirty per cent. of the apple trees in Simcoe County dying the following year. After a dry, hot spell late in summer, apple trees standing in sod have a poor chance if a severe winter follows.

I shall spray this spring with pure bluestone water before buds open.

With regard to fruits deserving special attention in this section, I would set out Pewaukee apples, and, when five years old, or before, depending upon the growth made, graft to Spy. If the grafting is neglected, we still have a good winter apple. We used the culls all last winter of a Pewaukee orchard for pies, and liked them as well as Spies. They kept well just piled in a bin in the cellar. The Pewaukee is the best all-round tree in Simcoe for grafting Spy on. I have fifty just ready to graft now.

Of the plums, Burbank deserves special attention; cherries, Wyehouse; pears, graft Bartlett upon Flemish Beauty or Keiffer; gooseberries, Red Jacket (Joselyn). This new berry fills the bill here, unless the new pest makes it impossible to get fruit. Every berry dropped with a maggot in it last year.

Cultivation or mulching is needed badly. In a dry year, the fruit not only drops off, but what is left on is not fully matured and will not keep. The tree is weakened, and, if it does not die the following year, is sick for years. I would pay one-third more for fully matured Spies grown in a cultivated orchard than those from trees standing in sod, if the summer be dry or a dry spell when the apple is growing.

Spraying is neglected, even by those who have good machines. Many of our farmers have one hundred trees or more, and it would pay well to spray them. A good many have the Aylmer or the Spramotor, both good pumps, but I find that the actual state of the case is that, as it takes so long and so much help, much spraying is neglected. Very few orchards are so situated that you can get a horse and cart into them quickly. If every one had a big pump for a big day's work, where all hands could get at it, or for a big crop of potatoes, then more spraying would be done. If soda will take the place of lime in the Bordeaux mixture, it should be published in every paper. Getting the lime fresh is quite a difficulty. I get small quantities at a time, but it is slack before I need it, and to keep it all summer it loses its strength. And making Bordeaux with lime is almost three-thirds of the reason why the mixture is not used. Simcoe Co., Ont. STANLEY SPILLET.

Fruit Prospects in Georgian Bay District.

Although the weather has been very severe this winter, I anticipate no serious damage to fruit trees, as the wood was thoroughly well ripened last fall. However, it is too early yet to determine, as we have had no thaw.

We have no scale, therefore have never used any wash, and the Georgian Bay usually keeps it cold enough to retard growth till damage of frost is past, so do not need to spray to prevent buds bursting. We spray first when buds are bursting, second when blossoms have fallen and fruit is set, and again in eight days or two weeks, and a fourth spraying, if necessary, always with Bordeaux mixture. Farmers should pay more attention to the best varieties of winter apples. In this district we have made considerable advancement in the more general desire for practical information, and in applying the approved methods of orchard management. Pruning, fertility, and cultivation, however, still claim much attention, and perhaps are too generally neglected.

Now is a good time to clean the trees of the mummy plums. They are full of spores, and if left transmit disease to the young fruit; also do light pruning, but no heavy pruning till weather is warmer—frost cuts heal badly. Grey Co., Ont. J. G. MITCHELL.

Fruit Prospects in New Ontario.

In writing the "Farmer's Advocate" concerning the effect of the severe weather upon fruit trees, Mr. A. E. Annis, Supt. Exp. Farm, Dryden, Ont., says:

"As we have not any trees of fruit-bearing age, the severe weather will not hurt, except as to killing back young trees. It is too early to tell of extent of damage. We have not used any wash or spray for anything, and it has not been needed here, even for currants. Our small fruit bushes are covered, so do not anticipate much damage from the weather. Red raspberry, red, black and white currants have done well here."

Apple-barrel Staves.

A leading Guelph apple shipper writes the Fruit Division, Ottawa, that he can use from 12,000 to 15,000 barrels every year, and that it is his intention to buy the staves and make his own barrels hereafter. He says: "The trade will have to make great preparations, because all staves in the country will now be very green wood, and I should especially warn your department to urge all stave dealers to get drying kilns working so that stock will be O. K. when needed."

Frost and Fruit Trees.

Just what effect this unusually cold winter will have upon the fruit trees and vines will not be fully known until the opening of spring; in fact, the full effects will not be fully apparent until after the blooming period. Damage to the fruit buds of such tender fruits as peaches is feared; but the bud may be injured to such an extent as to destroy the life of the pistil, yet the blossom may unfold and the bloom appear as usual, but will fail to set fruit; and the same, no doubt, will occur with other fruits of a tender nature. There are reports of plum and cherry trees cracking open in the trunk with the severe and continued frost, and much damage is feared in some sections from root-killing. In the southern part of the Province the orchards are partly covered with ice and partly bare, and it is likely the greatest damage if any, will occur from root-freezing where these conditions exist. Tender varieties of apples are likely to suffer in the same way; but in the northern sections there is a deep covering of snow, that gives ample protection to the roots. With regard to the fruit-buds and the new growth of wood, there will, no doubt, be some damage; yet there is the favor of a dry fall, with well-ripened wood and well-matured buds, and the greatest danger is from a thaw or soft spell, followed by a sudden and extreme cold dip. The cracking of the trunks of plum and cherry may not be so serious as anticipated. If we are favored with seasonable weather during the spring the wonderful recuperative powers of nature will do much to repair the injury caused by extremes of temperature.



Colonel S. Spur, Melvern Square, N. S.
President Nova Scotia Farmers' Association.

Orchard Meetings.

The Ontario Fruit-growers' Association are planning to hold a series of orchard meetings again this year. The plan, as in former years, is to assemble at some hall in a central locality at about 1.30 p.m., and hold about an hour's discussion on fruit topics, and then adjourn to a near-by orchard, where object lessons will be given in pruning, grafting, etc., and practical talks given in a conversational way on the best methods of orchard practice. In the evening a meeting will be held in the hall at 7.30, when the commercial side of the fruit industry will be discussed, as well as the best methods of cultivation. The question of transportation and marketing will be fully discussed, and advice and assistance given as to the formation of co-operative associations, for the purpose of buying supplies of spraying materials, packages for shipping, etc.; also for marketing the products of the orchard and garden.

The co-operative spraying of orchards by means of power-spraying machines will likely be a feature in the discussions at the evening meetings.

The services of some of the Dominion Fruit Inspectors have been secured for these meetings, and a list of the places where meetings are to be held is now being arranged by the executive. The Farmers' Institutes will likely be asked to co-operate in each locality, and no doubt much good will be done along the line of practical work, and more particularly in the way of furthering the commercial side of the fruit industry.

Mr. John W. McIntosh, Middlesex Co., Ont., says: Your paper is a complete compendium of what every farmer requires. Success to you, gentlemen.

Fruit in Ottawa Valley.

It is too early to estimate on any damage done by the severe winter weather. Although apple trees are showing considerable shrivelling of the bark on the twigs, owing to continued low temperatures and deeply-frozen ground, I find, on thawing them out and giving them a steam bath, that the cambium layer and fruit buds are apparently not injured in any way up to the present.

I have used lime wash on my trees in winter for oyster-shell bark louse. The best results from this treatment is obtained when the application is made in December, but I have had fair results when the work has been done as late as March 16th, but such late applications cannot be recommended.

For spraying in the spring and summer, Bordeaux mixture and Paris green should be used. For the control of the leaf-eating insects and fungi on the apple, the first spraying should be done just as the buds are bursting, which is about the first of May in this section; a second spraying should be made just before the blossom opens, and a third just as the blossom falls, followed, if necessary, by sprayings every ten or fifteen days through June, which will insure the crop against injury from spot. Too much importance cannot be put on the first three sprayings, for on these depends the success or failure of our crop of apples nearly every year. These sprayings, besides keeping under control nearly all the injurious insects that attack the trees, also keep the foliage and young fruit free from spot, and if the fruit is kept free from this disease in its early growth, there will be very little trouble from it in the late summer months.

Farmers in the eastern counties of the Province—those counties lying along the St. Lawrence and Ottawa valleys, would do well to give most of their attention to apple-growing, as pears and plums are of uncertain value, many of them being tender.

In apples, the moneymakers in the commercial orchards are the Fameuse, McIntosh, Scarlet Pippin and Wealthy. In pears, we have nothing better than Flemish Beauty. There are several varieties that are hardy, but not so good in quality. Plums of the European type are not, as a rule, hardy in the fruit bud, but those of the Americana type are quite hardy and of fair quality; among the best might be mentioned Whitaker, Hawkeye, Stoddard.

Grenville Co., Ont.

HAROLD JONES.

St. Lawrence Fruit Experiment Station.

Fruit-growers' Conference.

It has been proposed to call together at Ottawa a conference of representative fruit-growers from all the Provinces of Canada, to discuss matters of national interest; such matters as might call for legislation by the Federal Parliament, or matters that might require unanimous action on the part of fruit-growers, regarding such subjects as transportation, legislation, uniformity of packages, etc. The matter will accordingly be taken up by a committee of the N. S. Fruit-growers' Association, some members of which suggested the formation of a Canadian Pomological Society of national character and scope.

DAIRY.

Eastern Townships Dairy Matters.

The annual meeting of the Sherbrooke Dairy-men's Exchange was held in Sherbrooke, Que., on February 19th. A motion was adopted that an application be made to have the exchange incorporated.

Many of the leading factorymen expressed the opinion that there were too many small factories, which ought to be run on the same principle as the larger ones, but which was impossible without the owners losing money. More uniform prices for manufacturing butter and cheese were considered desirable, and the following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved, that this meeting wishes to place on record the opinion that the price for making butter and cheese is in many cases too low, and does not enable the makers to purchase the best supplies, which are so essential to the good product, and it is recommended that a uniform rate of not less than three cents for butter and one and one-half cents for cheese be adopted in this section, in order to raise the standard of quality, and thus benefit the patrons." A sub-committee was appointed to interview the factorymen, with a view to putting the above resolution into effect.

A very sensible movement has been inaugurated by the Richmond District, P.Q., Cheese Board, in arranging for a series of dairy meetings to be held at various central points throughout the district. The following dairy experts have been engaged: T. W. Dunn, of the Cowansville, Que., cool-curing rooms; J. M. Lemieux, of the St. Hyacinthe cool-curing rooms, and A. W. Woodward, Official Referee, Montreal.

"COMPTON."